

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

February 4, 2013

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 4, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Ann Hall, and William Padien. Patricia Doyle and Christopher Willi were not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

Award of Bids

This item was tabled until next week.

2013-2014 Budget Work Session

Mr. Hicks updated the School Committee on the proposed changes made to the 2013-2014 budget. He provided the requested details on the cultural activities program. He explained that the "other technical services" line item was correctly budgeted at \$24,500 and includes our partnership with North Kingstown, the robocalling service, Medicaid and finance software, and the firewall management. There will be two retirement notices submitted at next week's regular meeting. One is from the art teacher and would allow the inclusion of ceramics in the art program at no added cost. Both of the new retirees' health care and severance payments will need to be included, but Mr. Hicks was concerned that there would not be enough in this year's budget to absorb these costs without dipping into the reserves. The adjustments made at the last work session and the elimination of the School Committee stipend reduced the budget by \$3,300. Bids were opened on January 28 and the only transportation bid (for three years) had a 21 percent increase. There is a potential reduction to budget of \$11,597 when you net out the above items.

The Trust increased health care rates by nine percent. However, each member's capital contribution will be returned by the Trust because of the pool's positive experience. Our contribution was \$7,775 and Mr. Hicks had hoped to use it for our OPEB trust rates, but it could also be used to reduce the health benefits from 9 to 7.4 percent. Committee members were in favor of putting the capital contribution into the OPEB trust.

There is a reduction to the budget of approximately \$8,000 from what Mr. Hicks originally proposed. The budget currently stands at \$4,711,148 or a two percent increase over this year. Mr. Hicks will plug in all of the changes discussed this evening, including the additional days to the superintendent's time, to make sure the budget is correct before next week's meeting.

Mr. Hicks also submitted a five-year budget forecast, through 2018-2019, with reasons for his assumptions. This will be included when the budget is forwarded to the town.

Adjournment

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 7:34 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 3-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 11, 2013